

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2** Internet connection boost for the REAL Program
NEA's Read Across America
- 3** Public libraries receive LSTA grants
- 4** Missouri Group Catalog now available
Public library directors meet
- 5** Lewis and Clark exhibition opens in St. Louis
Wolfner Advisory Council Meeting
Consumer health information training
- 6** Missouri Library News
- 8** Personal Notes
- 9** Children's book award nominees announced
- 10** Statewide continuing education committee holds inaugural meeting
Regional literacy conference will take place in St. Louis
2004 ReadMOre book announced
- 11** National Poetry Month in April
Sharing 'trade secrets' for youth services
Children's Literature Festival at CMSU
- 12** Booklist's Top of the List

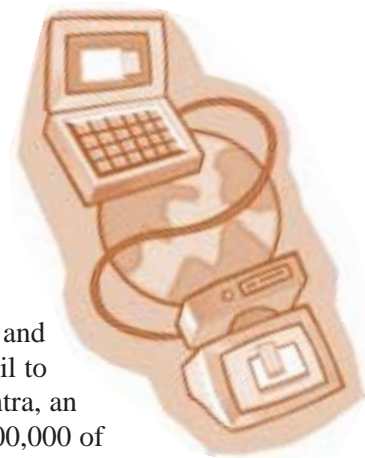
MOREnet Advisory Council assembles for inaugural meeting

January 6, 2004, marked the first meeting of the MOREnet Advisory Council. The council was created to direct planning and policy for the MOREnet infrastructure and oversee MOREnet activities supported by state appropriations. The creation of this council means Missouri public libraries, school districts, and universities now have a definitive voice in MOREnet's decision-making process.

Bill Mitchell, MOREnet Executive Director, gave an overview of the organization, including the history, structure, and services. Mitchell also presented specific issues for the council to address, including the purchase of a statewide license for Centra, an e-conferencing software. The council approved the use of \$500,000 of reserves to purchase the license. Other discussion topics included the shared network port fee, size appropriate connections for higher education, cost recovery for use of MCU ports, criteria for operating reserves and restricted fund balances, and a remote vulnerability audit update.

Susan Cole, Council Chair, led a discussion on the major issues of the state agencies, and the identification of the Council's priorities and strategic planning process for the current year and beyond. Those priorities and planning ideas are still under the Council's consideration.

The Council plans to meet quarterly and will publish meeting minutes on the MOREnet Web site, www.more.net. Members of the MOREnet Council include: Susan Cole, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Council Chair; Cheryl Bielema, University of Missouri – St. Louis; Annie Busch, Springfield-Greene County Library; Ralph Caruso, University of Missouri System; Margaret Conroy, Missouri River Regional Library; Nancy Devino, Department of Higher Education; Donald Doucette, Metropolitan Community Colleges; Curt Fuchs, Columbia Public Schools; Jeanie Gordon, New Franklin R-1 School District; Bill Mitchell, MOREnet; Sara Parker, Missouri State Library; Gerry Wethington, State of Missouri.



E-mail change for State Library employees

The Missouri Secretary of State's Office has changed the format of all SOS employee e-mail addresses, including the staff at the Missouri State Library. The new e-mail addresses for MOSL staff will be "firstname.lastname@sos.mo.gov", and can be found on the Library's Web site at www.sos.mo.gov/library/staff.asp. The old addresses will continue to operate until June 30, 2004.

newsline (ISSN 1088-680X) is published bimonthly by the Library Development Division of the Missouri State Library, PO Box 387, Jefferson City, MO 65102; telephone 800-325-0131 in Missouri or 573-751-2680; fax 573-751-3612.

Contents of **newsline** may be reprinted with reference given to the publication and its date of issue.

The Missouri State Library is a division of the Secretary of State's Office.

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Check out **newsline online** (ISSN 1088-7237) at www.sos.mo.gov/library/newsline/newsline.asp

Internet connection boost for the REAL Program

The Missouri State Library is excited to announce the next stage of Internet connectivity for the REAL Program. In August of 2002, representatives of public libraries across the state met to discuss REAL Program services. At this meeting a robust connection was listed as the top priority. As a result, FY04 funds were prioritized to target all existing libraries and branches with 56k connections for upgrade to a 384k, 768k, or T1 connection by June 30, 2004. This initiative will increase the Internet connection speed and capacity for 48 REAL Program connections across 29 public libraries and their branches.

As of January 1, 2004, 36 connection upgrades had been completed or are in process. MOREnet will contact the remaining 12 libraries by February 28, 2004, to begin the upgrade process.

Funding to support this increase in connection charges comes from E-rate discounts as well as the reduction of lower priority services.

Libraries receiving upgraded connections are:

Appleton City Public Library
Atchison County Library
Barry-Lawrence Regional Library
Bloomfield Public Library
Bowling Green Free Public Library
Canton Public Library
Carrollton Public Library
Carter County Library
Dade County Library
Daviess County Library
Dulany Memorial Library
Dunklin County Library
Hamilton Public Library
Holden Public Library
Monroe City Public Library
Northeast Missouri Library Service
Oregon Public Library

Ozark Regional Library
Polk County Library
Pulaski County Library
Puxico Public Library
Rich Hill Memorial Library
Robertson Memorial Library
Schuyler County Library
Scotland County Memorial Library
Steele Public Library
Sweet Springs Public Library
Texas County Library
Wellsville Public Library

NEA's Read Across America, March 2

School and public libraries across the nation will be celebrating Dr. Seuss's 100th birthday on March 2, 2004, as part of the National Education Association's "Read Across America" event. The year-round program culminates on Seuss's birthday every year with reading parties and other activities to promote and encourage the joy of reading.



To honor Theodor Seuss Geisel's memory, a "Seussentennial Imagination Tour" is visiting more than 40 cities, bringing free live performances by actors and costumed characters, readings of Dr. Seuss books, and interactive imagination workshops for children. The tour travels across the country through March 2 and stopped in Kansas City on February 15.

Many Missouri public libraries will participate in the event and can share their activities on the NEA Web site, www.nea.org/readacross/contacts/index.html. A resource kit with ideas, activities, and information about Dr. Seuss and Read Across America can be downloaded at www.nea.org/readacross/resources/index.html. NEA also has a Read Across America local coordinator, Debra Angstead, who can be reached at (573) 634-3202.

Public libraries receive LSTA grants for software

Over twenty Missouri public libraries received Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant funds for the Missouri State Library's LearnATest Pilot Project and English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Computer Instruction Pilot Project. Awards were made in September 2003 and totaled \$95,677.

LearnATest is a new, web-accessible, interactive resource from LearningExpress, a prominent publisher of test preparation, career guidance, and skill building books. LearnATest.com offers a convenient way to prepare for more than 350 academic or professional exams. Test preparation and skill building materials are perennially popular in libraries, but also high-loss materials. With LearnATest, library patrons can access practice tests that range from U.S. citizenship to graduate school entrance exams from library computers. They can also access LearnATest from remote locations with a user name and password.

The ESOL Computer Instruction Pilot Project provides libraries with a vehicle to help Low-English-Proficient individuals, especially adults, improve their English individually via a computerized instructional ESOL package, called ELLIS software. Libraries participating in the pilot project also received a license that provides reproducible workbook materials and allows duplication of workbook materials for all levels of software. Those interested in learning English can go to a participating library and study at their own pace while also improving their computer skills.

Grantees for the LearnATest Project:

Adair County Public Library	\$ 2,468
Albany Carnegie Public Library	\$ 1,229
Barry-Lawrence Regional Library	\$ 3,707
Barton County Library	\$ 2,468
Carthage Public Library	\$ 2,468
Cedar County Library	\$ 2,468
Christian County Library	\$ 3,707
Dulany Memorial Library (Salisbury)	\$ 1,229
Dunklin County Library	\$ 2,468
Jefferson County Library	\$ 3,707
Livingston County Library	\$ 2,468
Marshall Public Library	\$ 2,468
St. Joseph Public Library	\$ 3,707
St. Louis County Library	\$24,532
Scotland County Library	\$ 1,229
Sedalia Public Library	\$ 2,468
West Plains Public Library	\$ 2,468

Grantees for ESOL Computer Instruction Pilot Project:

Cass County Public Library	\$ 3,368
Dunklin County Library	\$ 3,368
Kansas City Public Library	\$12,678
Marshall Public Library	\$ 3,368
Sedalia Public Library	\$ 3,368
Springfield-Greene County Library	\$ 3,368
University City Public Library	\$ 3,368



Web Watch

FBI Handbook of Forensic Services

www.fbi.gov/hq/lab/handbook/intro.htm

Want to know how a real CSI works? The online handbook outlines procedures for collecting, preserving, packaging, and shipping evidence.

Encyclopedia Mythica

www.pantheon.org/

This encyclopedia of mythology, folklore, legends, and more contains over 6,000 definitions of gods and goddesses, supernatural beings, legendary creatures, and monsters from all over the world.

Today in Literature

www.todayinliterature.com

A new original biographical story each calendar day about the great writers, books, and events in literary history.

J.K. Rowling launches world book day online festival in March

The second annual World Book Day Online Festival will take place on March 4, 2004, and readers from around the world will have the chance to chat online with J.K. Rowling. Rowling will participate in the event with twelve other best-selling authors, giving interviews, readings, and live chat sessions. The festival is funded by Arts Council England and can be found on www.worldbookdayfestival.com.



Missouri Group Catalog now available

In 2001, the Missouri State Library coordinated with the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) to offer Missouri public libraries access to the OCLC WorldCat online database. Since that time, the State Library has used Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds to give libraries access to the catalog, enter records in the catalog, and offset interlibrary loan costs in the state. The project, called "Show-Me the World," now has a new enhancement: the Missouri Group Catalog.

The Missouri Group Catalog customizes the FirstSearch interface so that the user can choose between searching only Missouri public library collections, expanding the search to include all participating Missouri libraries, or searching the even larger universe of libraries around the world. Using the same format as OCLC FirstSearch, changing from one to the other is as simple as one click.

Show-Me the World gives Missouri library patrons access to nearly 50 million

records of library materials, including books, periodicals, audio-visual materials, and more. Users can search records from approximately 90 Missouri public library collections.

The Missouri Library Network Corporation (MLNC) offered two videoconferencing sessions in January to introduce the catalog and plans to offer a few more in 2004. Check the MLNC Web site www.mlnc.org/ for more information on future training opportunities.

Public library directors meet

Missouri public library directors from around the state met on December 4 – 5, 2003, for the semiannual Missouri Public Library Directors Group (MPLD) meeting. Session topics included "Partnership Programs for Consumer Health Issues," "Risk Management for Libraries," and "Violence in the Workplace." Sessions on the Web-junction portal (www.webjunction.org) and the "Show Me the World" Group Catalog

covered the latest Internet and database tools. Attendees also received a Missouri State Library update, a legislative update, and a library law update. The next MPLD meeting will take place on June 3-4, 2004, at the Ramada Inn in Joplin, Missouri.

Lewis and Clark exhibition opens in St. Louis

Marking the bicentennial of Lewis and Clark's transcontinental journey of exploration, the Missouri Historical



Society opened *Lewis & Clark: The National Bicentennial Exhibition* on January 14, 2004, at the Missouri History Museum in St. Louis. The exhibition will be on view through September 6, 2004, and then launch a national tour stopping in Philadelphia, Denver, Portland, and Washington D.C.

The exhibition features hundreds of artifacts, including rare and priceless objects and documents that have not been seen in one place since the Corp of Discovery returned to St. Louis in 1806. Period objects and art represent the equipment the explorers used, the land they traveled, and the Native American tribes they encountered. The core of the exhibition is formed by artifacts, artwork, and documents entrusted to the Historical Society by the Clark and Lewis families.

Lewis & Clark: The National Bicentennial Exhibition is open daily, and ticket prices and additional information are available at www.lewisandclarkexhibit.org.

Wolfner Advisory Council Meets

November 21, 2003, marked the first meeting of the reconstituted Wolfner Advisory Council. Dan Ross, Executive Deputy Secretary of State, and Richard Smith, Wolfner

Director, gave an overview of Wolfner Services to the new members. Via conference call, Steve Prine of the National Library Service gave members a summary of the national library program of Braille and recorded materials. The meeting concluded with a tour of Wolfner Library.

Appointees to the council are: Mary Dinius, reappointed by St. Louis Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Dan Flaser, Richmond Heights, appointed by the National Federation of the Blind of Missouri; Zeze Miller, Jefferson City, reappointed by the Department of Social Services; Phyllis Zirkle, Stewartsville, reappointed by the Missouri Council of the Blind.

At large members, appointed by Secretary of State Matt Blunt: Fran Benham, St. Louis; Bill Burris, West Plains; Randy Custer, Springfield; John Donley, Fulton; Dennis Miller, Kirksville; Patricia Morrow, Columbia; Judy Redlich, St. Louis; Steve Robinson, St. Louis; Emma Lou Swopes, Hughesville; Shelia Wright, Kansas City; Brian Wekamp, Jefferson City.

Consumer health information training available

The National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Midcontinental Region, recently announced Barbara Jones as the liaison for the state of Missouri. Jones is available to public libraries within the state for training on National Library of Medicine products including MEDLINEplus, TOXNET, PubMed, and Clinical Trials. In addition, she is available for training or presentations on subjects such as "Consumer Health Information on the Web," "Health Information for Seniors," "Spanish Language Health Information" and "How to Find Quality Health Information." For more information, please contact Barbara Jones at (573) 884-5042 or jonesbarb@missouri.edu.



25 new films added to national film registry

Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, *Patton*, and *Young Frankenstein* are among the 25 films recently added to the Library of Congress National Film Registry. This year's selections span the years 1894 to 1988, and encompass films ranging from Hollywood classics to lesser-known, but still vital works.

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington said the films chosen are not necessarily the best or most famous, but are "films that continue to have a cultural, historical, or aesthetic significance." The complete list of films can be found at www.loc.gov/film.



Missouri Library News

newsline welcomes information for "Missouri Library News" and "Personal Notes" from librarians, library trustees, and others interested in the state's libraries. Send news about library events, projects, awards, and personnel changes to the editor. (See page 2 for contact information.)

Update on tornado damaged library in Pierce City

During the tornados and damaging storms that struck Missouri in May 2003, the Pierce City Public Library, a branch of the Barry-Lawrence Regional Library, was completely destroyed. Approximately 11,000 volumes, seven computers, and all furnishings were a total loss. The library district plans to rebuild and is attempting to purchase a lot located behind the existing library property to add a meeting room.

While an architect has developed preliminary drawings for the new building, construction has been delayed until the library can obtain clear title on the additional property. FEMA has approved the project and Community Development Block Grant funds from the Missouri Department of Economic Development will cover a portion of the required match for the FEMA funds. It may be several months before construction can begin, which means the building could be completed sometime in the fall.

The district received insurance money to replace the collection, and thousands of donated materials from individuals and groups all over the county have been making storage space a critical issue. Pierce City Friends of the Library estimate 25,000 books have been donated to the library. These materials are being processed as quickly as possible, and any duplicates are being offered to other branches. If the other branches don't need them, they will be offered to other small libraries in southwest Missouri. The district also plans to sell unneeded items and will use the proceeds to purchase new materials.

While this has been a catastrophic loss for the library district, Library Director Jean Berg said the board of trustees and the staff

are dealing with it on a daily basis as best they can.

"We've received a great deal of support from the public," Berg said. "We appreciate the donations that have come from various libraries and the offers to help with whatever is needed."

In the mean time, Pierce City library patrons are using Monett and Mount Vernon branches, and an uncataloged collection of donated paperbacks at two locations in Pierce City are available to patrons. People may take the paperbacks, keep them, loan them to others, or borrow or exchange for different titles.

1904 World's Fair on virtual exhibit at the St. Louis Public Library

In conjunction with Celebrate 2004, the St. Louis Public Library proudly presents *Celebrating the Louisiana Purchase*, a new virtual exhibit that looks back on the: 1904 World's Fair. Containing over 1,250 historical World's Fair photographs, publications, and memorabilia, the exhibit covers the World's Fair from commencement to conclusion. The materials in the virtual exhibit are drawn from the Library's own 1904 St. Louis World's Fair collection. Celebrating the Louisiana Purchase is just one of the St. Louis Public Library's contributions to Celebrate 2004, a yearlong series of events and activities marking St. Louis' historic anniversaries and celebrating the region's recent accomplishments. To access the virtual exhibit, visit the Library's Web site at www.slpl.lib.mo.us.

Daniel Boone Regional Library wins MLA award

Daniel Boone Regional Library recently won the 2003 Public Relations Achievement award from the Missouri Library Association. The award recognized the library's 2002 efforts to inform the public about the move to its newly reconstructed facility.

Brentwood Rededication

After months of remodeling, the Brentwood Public Library celebrated its reopening and rededication on November 1, 2003. The building was originally constructed in 1951 and had never been remodeled, nor was it equipped for appropriate computer access. After conducting a space utilization plan, some walls were knocked down and all the electrical services were replaced. New furniture, carpeting, shelving, and storage space were also added.

The new look for the library includes re-configured walls, a custom-built circulation desk, a dedicated computer space, reading nooks, and a redesigned meeting room that includes computer hookups and accessories for computer classes or meetings.

Library Director John Furlong said the response has been positive and patrons are pleased the library has retained its original feel. While the remodeling has allowed for more space and room to expand the collection, the architects retained features such as the wood bookcases throughout the library.

During the remodeling, a mobile office was set up in the library's parking lot so patrons could still access materials. People could call to request books and the librarians would locate them and reserve them in the trailer. The library was completely closed to the public only two days during the construction.



Brentwood Library's circulation desk.

KC Public Library offers virtual tour of new facility

While the Kansas City Public Library's construction on the new Central facility has yet to be completed, the library is offering a virtual tour of the progress on their Web site. The renovations to the building are on schedule and should open sometime in the spring. See images of the new building, including the vault theater, the historic lobby, president's office, and roof terrace at www.kclibrary.org/support/central/images.cfm.

Arson damages Springfield-Greene County library

The Springfield-Greene County Library Center is returning to normal operations after an arsonist attacked the center on January 19, 2004. The arsonist broke through the drive-up window and used gasoline to set fire to three areas of the library, including the classic literature section and two reference staff cubicles behind the periodicals desk. Sprinklers activated quickly to put out the fire, but did significant damage as the water soaked thousands of books and the carpet.

The library was closed for about a week while cleaning crews worked on the building and library staff sorted through the damaged materials. Sections of the library were closed off with plastic sheeting, and dry air was pumped in to reduce the humidity levels. Air ducts were cleaned and fans were brought in to help dry the carpet. Over 14,000 books were carefully sorted and shipped to Chicago where they are being freeze-dried, cleaned, and deodorized. Almost 600 books were burned and gas-soaked beyond repair.

Police arrested a 19-year-old Springfield man on February 7, who now faces charges of second-degree arson and second-degree burglary. According to a report in the *Springfield News-Leader*, the suspect set the fire not because of a grudge against the library but to destroy chat room messages he had posted on a library computer.



Personal Notes

Appointments:

The Missouri Library Network Corporation (MLNC) recently announced **Tracy Ro-chow Byerly** as their new executive director, effective December 1, 2003. Byerly served as MLNC's User Services Manager since 1995, coordinating the training program while serving as a trainer herself.

Dr. Pal V. Rao, who became Central Missouri State University's first library dean in 1988, has accepted the position of Dean of University Libraries at Wichita State University. During his tenure, Dean Rao helped in the development of the statewide common library platform, MOBIUS (Missouri

Bibliographic Information User System). In 1998, he received the Missouri Library Association Ronald G. Bohley Award.

After serving 18 years as head librarian at the Lee's Summit Branch of the Mid-Continent Library, **Vicky Baker** has been promoted to north area administrator, in charge of 15 branch librarians in Clay and Platte counties.

Awards and Honors:

Daniel Bradbury, former executive director of the Kansas City Public Library, won the 2003 Ronald G. Bohley Award from the Missouri Library Association. Bradbury, now retired, helped create the Kansas City Library Consortium, which links library catalogs and checkout for the member libraries. He also served as president and council member of the Kansas City Metropolitan Library and Information Network, and was Library Journal's Librarian of the Year in 1991.

One stop shopping for grant applications

Federal officials recently announced a single, comprehensive Web site that will contain information about finding and applying for all federal grant programs. The Web site, www.grants.gov/, includes information about more than 800 available grant programs involving all 26 federal grant-making agencies. The site provides information in a standardized format across agencies and includes a "Find Grant Opportunities" feature to help applicants find potential funding opportunities.

The site also contains an "Apply for Grants" feature that allows applicants to download, complete, and submit applications for specific grant opportunities from any federal grant-making agency. To date, application packages have been posted by five agencies, but the section will be expanded in the coming months as federal agencies continue to post application information.

National public library statistics summarized on the web

Nationwide public library statistics for the fiscal year 2001 have been summarized on the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) Web site, as part of the Education Statistics Quarterly (Vol. 5, Issue 2). The Quarterly offers an accessible overview of all NCES products released in a given period, and can be found at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2004608>.

The public library portion of the report begins on page 147 of the document, and summarizes information about public libraries in all 50 states for the fiscal year 2001. Library service measures, collection size, staffing, operating income and expenditures, and other topics are evaluated.

Children's book award nominees announced

The Missouri Association of School Librarians (MASL) recently announced the nominations for three children's and young adult literature awards.

The Show Me Readers Award promotes literature, literacy, and reading in Missouri elementary schools for children in grades one through three. The award also serves as a means to recognize authors and illustrators of books that are favorites of children in these grades.

The Mark Twain Award is selected by students in grades four through eight and presented annually to a living United States author. The award provides the children of Missouri with their very own source to enrich their lives through reading. Missouri students in grades four through eight are eligible to vote for their favorite book if they have read at least four of the titles on the current master list.

The Gateway Readers' Award is a MASL readers' choice award for Missouri young adults in grades 9 through 12. The award's purpose is to encourage Missouri young adults in grades 9 through 12 to select and read quality literature that appeals to their needs, interests, and reading levels and to recognize and honor outstanding works in young adult literature. Missouri teens may begin reading books from the list next spring, but voting will not take place until 2005. Teens must read at least three of the books on the list to be eligible to vote.

Voting rules and other information about all three awards may be found on the MASL Web site at www.maslonline.org/awards/books/.

Show Me Readers Award 2004-2005 Nominees:

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Thank You, Sarah: The Woman Who Saved Thanksgiving*.
Auch, Mary Jane. *The Princess and the Pizza*.
Bildner, Phil. *Shoeless Joe and Black Betsy*.
Boase, Susan. *Lucky Boy*.
Haseley, Dennis. *A Story for Bear*.
Hopkins, Jackie Mims. *Three Armadillies Tuff*.

Levine, Gail Carson. *Betsy Who Cried Wolf*.
McPhail, David. *The Teddy Bear*.
Raven, Margot Theis. *Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot: A True Story of the Berlin Airlift and the Candy That Dropped from the Sky*.
Salley, Coleen. *Espossumondas*.

Mark Twain Award 2004-2005 Nominees:

Avi. *Crispin: The Cross of Lead*.
Bauer, Joan. *Stand Tall*.
Carey, Janet Lee. *Wenny Has Wings*.
Clements, Andrew. *A Week in the Woods*.
Creech, Sharon. *Ruby Holler*.
Dahlberg, Maurine. *The Spirit and Gilly Bucket*.
Davies, Jacqueline. *Where the Ground Meets the Sky*.
Fuqua, Jonathon Scott. *Darby*.
Giff, Patricia Reilly. *Pictures of Hollis Woods*.
Golding, Theresa. *Secret Within*.
Hiaasen, Carl. *Hoot*.
Hobbs, Will. *Wild Man Island*.
Kehret, Peg. *Stranger Next Door*.
Kochenderfer, Lee. *The Victory Garden*.
Park, Linda Sue. *When My Name Was Keoko*.
Pearsall, Shelley. *Trouble Don't Last*.
Pfitsch, Patricia Curtis. *Riding the Flume*.
Roberts, Willo Davis. *Undercurrents*.
Spinelli, Jerry. *Loser*.
Tolan, Stephanie S. *Surviving the Applewhites*.

Gateway Readers Award 2004-2005 Nominees:

Allende, Isabel. *City of the Beasts*.
Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Catalyst*.
Auch, Mary Jane. *Ashes of Roses*.
Bechard, Margaret. *Hanging on to Max*.
Cabot, Meg. *All-American Girl*.
Dessen, Sarah. *This Lullaby: A Novel*.
Farmer, Nancy. *The House of the Scorpion*.
Giles, Gail. *Shattering Glass*.
Kidd, Sue Monk. *The Secret Life of Bees*.
Klass, David. *Home of the Braves*.
Korman, Gordon. *Son of the Mob*.
Oates, Joyce Carol. *Big Mouth and Ugly Girl*.
Plum-Ucci, Carol. *What Happened to Lani Garver*.
Powell, Randy. *Three Clams and an Oyster*.
Sebold, Alice. *The Lovely Bones: A Novel*.

Upcoming Events



February:
Black History Month

Missouri Library Legislative
Day, February 3

Winter Institute
February 3-6

Missouri Digitization
Conference, February 10-12

March:
Women's History Month

NEA Read Across America
Day, March 2

IMLS Web-Wise Conference
March 3-5

CMSU Children's Literature
Festival, March 14-16

Freedom of Information Day,
March 16

KCMLIN Children's
Workshop, March 23

Statewide continuing education committee holds inaugural meeting

Librarians, educators, and other specialists from around the state met on December 7, 2003, to begin work as the newly formed Missouri State Library Continuing Education Committee. Still in its preliminary stages, the committee worked on developing mission and vision statements and identifying specific responsibilities.

Of primary concern to the committee are ways to identify what kinds of continuing education needs exist in Missouri, as well as finding ways to accurately identify the population and market the training opportunities available. Expanding the State Library CE calendar, surveying library staff, and promoting the importance of continuing education were all cited as possible actions the committee could undertake. Over the next year the committee will meet quarterly to work on these activities and discuss continuing education issues.

Committee members include:

Leo Agnew, University of Missouri – Columbia

Pamela Brady, MOREnet

Margaret Booker, Missouri Library Association

Susan Burton, Kansas City Metropolitan Library and Information Network



The state continuing education committee discusses its mission and responsibilities.

Tracy Byerly, Missouri Library Network Corporation

Beth Eckles, Missouri Department of Corrections

Debra Fite, West Plains Public Library
Tammy Flippen, Springfield-Greene County Library

Jacque Gage, Barton County Library
Victor Gragg, Mid-Continent Public Library

Rita Gulstad, Central Methodist College
Ray Hall, Mexico-Audrain County Library
Cheryl Hoemann, Montgomery County R-II High School

Marilyn McLeod, Daniel Boone Regional Library

Charles Seavey, University of Missouri – Columbia

Ann Sundermeyer, Hannibal Free Public Library

Patrice Vale, Missouri State Library

Regional literacy conference will take place in St. Louis

“ABC’s of Literacy: Acting for a Better Community” is the theme for the regional literacy conference on March 11 and 12, 2004, at Webster University in St. Louis. Anyone involved in literacy programs, adult education, or similar community based programming is encouraged to attend. The conference will include workshops, a keynote speaker, panel discussions with leaders in the field, and an awards luncheon for outstanding literacy figures. A Kansas City-based conference will come in May 2004. For more information, call toll free 186-681-IREAD (1-866-814-7323).

2004 ReadMOre book announced

The Kirkwood Public Library and the Missouri Humanities Council recently announced the book selected for the 2004 ReadMOre campaign. *Mississippi Solo*, by Eddy L. Harris, is a memoir of a black man traveling down the entire length of the Mississippi River alone in a borrowed canoe. Harris is formerly from St. Louis and now

lives in Paris. *Mississippi Solo* was originally published in 1988.

National Poetry Month in April

This year the Academy of American Poets will launch National Poetry Month with a National Poetry Almanac, available online at the Academy's Web site, www.poets.org/npm/, beginning April 1, 2004. The almanac will feature twelve different monthly themes highlighting activities, ideas, and history for individual and classroom use. April's theme will be "30 Ways to Celebrate National Poetry Month." The Academy is also offering free 2004 National Poetry Month posters to U.S. schools, libraries, bookstores, and community centers to promote the celebration and increase poetry awareness. The order form for posters can be found at www.poets.org/npm/images.cfm. Be sure to also check out the "Tips for Librarians" in the "Resources" section of the Web site (www.poets.org/npm/libtip.cfm), for a number of low cost suggestions to develop greater visibility for poetry during April and throughout the year.

Sharing 'trade secrets' for youth services

Youth services librarians from around the state gathered in November for the Missouri State Library Trade Secrets Workshop. Trade Secrets offers participants the chance to share successful ideas about programs, services, and promotions related to children's and young adult activities.

This year the workshop was offered by videoconference, so participants could go to Columbia, St. Charles, Springfield, or West Plains to attend.

The workshop showcased four successful projects funded through the State Library After School Connections grant program. Sarah Howard, from Daniel Boone Regional Library, discussed a storytelling program where youth from low-income families were taught how to use the library to develop storytelling skills. Bea Ingersoll de-

scribed Sedalia Public Library's after school bilingual program for Spanish-speaking children. Betsy Simmons, from Richmond Heights Memorial Library, explained how the after school "cyber café" program teaches web design and computer programming. The fourth presenter, Vera Florea, described Springfield-Greene County Library's puppeteer program for middle school children.

In addition to these special programs, time was reserved for all the participants to share ideas about their own successful activities. The idea-sharing session is always popular with participants because it's a great opportunity to exchange ideas with colleagues.

Many attendees expressed an interest in pursuing After School Connections grants for similar projects in the future. The After School Connections grant is designed to allow public libraries to provide after school experiences for youth who do not traditionally use the library. Projects can encourage reading and writing activities, provide homework help, introduce youth to library technology, offer volunteer opportunities, showcase topics in the library collection, and other activities. More information about the program can be found on the MOSL Web site, at www.sos.mo.gov/library/development/grants.asp.

Children's Literature Festival at CMSU

Central Missouri State University will host the 36th annual Children's Literature Festival on March 14 – 16, 2004. Students, parents, teachers, and librarians can hear Missouri author David Harrison speak at the luncheon on March 14. Other authors and illustrators will speak in sessions on March 15 and 16, and book sales will be open all three days of the festival. Pre-registration for the festival events is required. For information, please contact the festival director, Naomi Williamson, at (660) 543-4306, or by e-mail at Williamson@libserv.cmsu.edu. Information about the festival can also be found at <http://library.cmsu.edu/children.htm>.

Reconstructing Baghdad's national library

A Library of Congress team of experts recently visited Baghdad to help with a State Department-sponsored project to reconstruct the National Library and Archives in Iraq. The Library's team was the first outside group to go into the stacks containing the book and newspaper collections of Iraq's library and found the majority intact. Following an arson attack in April, Iraqi librarians had secured the doors and denied entrance to other organizations that requested entrance.

Over 50,000 Arabic manuscripts, some of which were more than 1,000 years old, were sheltered from damage because they had been moved to bomb shelters. Approximately 20 percent of a rare and forbidden book collection was damaged permanently due to broken water pipes. Only the "republican archives" – archival documentation from 1977 to the present – had been completely destroyed.

An official report created to summarize the team's findings and recommendations is available on the Library of Congress Web site, at www.loc.gov/rr/amed/iraqreport/iraqreport.html.

Booklist's Top of the List

Booklist magazine, the review journal of the American Library Association, recently announced its 2003 Top of the List winners. The eight winning titles were chosen from the annual Editors' Choice lists for adult books, books for youth, reference sources, and media, and are featured in the January 1 and 15, 2004 issue of *Booklist*.

The 2003 Booklist Top of the List winners are:

- Adult fiction: *The Known World* by Edward P. Jones (HarperCollins/Amistad)
- Adult nonfiction: *Monster of God: The Man-Eating Predator in the Jungles of History and the Mind* by David Quammen (Norton)
- Youth fiction: *Olive's Ocean* by Kevin Henkes (Greenwillow)
- Youth nonfiction: *In Defense of Liberty: The Story of America's Bill of Rights* by Russell Freedman (Holiday)
- Youth picture book: *Big Momma Makes the World*, written by Phyllis Root and illustrated by Helen Oxenbury (Candlewick)
- Reference source: *Encyclopedia of Food and Culture*, edited by Solomon H. Katz (Scribner)
- Audio: *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, by J.K. Rowling; read by Jim Dale (Listening Library)
- Video & DVD: *New York: The Center of the World* (PBS)



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